



Livable Streets Update (FIVE IN FIVE)



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'CHARACTER OPTIONS' IS TOPIC OF AUGUST 10 CONVENTION CENTER PUBLIC MEETING

"Character Options" is the theme of the public meeting to be held August 10 on the development of the schematic design for the new convention center.

The project's architect team of O'Brien/Atkins/Clearscapes/TVS is charged with proposing the new convention center's schematic design to the Raleigh City Council and Wake County Board of Commissioners in October.

As part of this process, the architects are offering to keep the public current on the development of the center's design while gathering feedback from these meetings. A July 13 public meeting focused on uniqueness of place. The topic of a September 14 meeting is "schematic design process."

The public meeting will begin at 5 p.m. in the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center.

The new convention center and a four-star Marriott hotel will be built on the south end of downtown. Construction of the convention center is scheduled to begin in 2005 with completion in late 2007.

CLUB EXEMPTION FROM HIRING OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICERS SENT BACK TO COMMITTEE

The Raleigh City Council on Aug. 3 sent back to its Law and Public Safety Committee a proposal that would exempt some entertainment establishments from a requirement that they have off-duty police officers on the premises during operating hours.
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THE FIVE IN FIVE WORK PLAN

Fayetteville Street Renaissance

Goal: Reinvigorate Fayetteville Street as the heart of Raleigh, the ceremonial corridor and the premier Downtown address for office, events and cultural activity. The top action items:

- Make active uses mandatory for ground floors fronting Fayetteville Street and provide incentives to encourage them.
- Fill in development gaps.
- Open available blocks to vehicular activity; in phases, beginning with the 200 and 300 blocks.
- Re-establish the capitol vista - Develop outdoor festival and performance space.

Convention Center

Goal: Develop and market competitive facilities to attract more national conventions and trade shows, and improve the business environment for hotels, restaurants and other visitor serving facilities. The top action items:

- Get new downtown convention center and convention center hotel adopted and funded.
- Solve lobby access.
- Suggest future expansion to south.
- Investigate mixed-use and roof-top uses.
- Develop strategy for active edge on Cabarrus Street.

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Under the proposal, establishments that have City amplified entertainment permits would be exempt from the requirement for a period of 90 days, provided they have had no drug violations or incidents of violence within the past 12 months. Clubs that have had these violations in the past year would be required to provide off-duty police officers for security purposes.

Council members sent the proposal back to the Law and Public Safety Committee for further study. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Aug. 10 at 4 p.m. in the council chamber at the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

CITY SEEKS BIDS FOR DEMOLITION WORK ON NEW CONVENTION CENTER SITE

The Raleigh City Council on Aug. 3 approved awarding a partial guaranteed maximum price (GMP) contract for building demolition on the site of the new downtown convention center.



The \$511,358 contract was awarded to the Skanska USA Building Inc./Barnhill Contracting Company, the joint-venture construction manager at risk for the convention center project. The contract authorizes the construction manager at risk to seek bids for Phase 1 demolition of four buildings on the construction site,

which is on the south end of downtown.

Demolition must be completed to continue the investigation of soil contamination remaining from a coal gasification plant that operated on the site on the south end of downtown from the late 1800s to the around 1914. The Phase 1 building demolition is scheduled to begin by September after a demolition contract has been awarded.

The GMP contract is the first of five such contracts that the council is expected to award to the construction manager at risk for various phases of construction of the convention center. Construction of the convention center and a four-star headquarters Marriott hotel will start in 2005, with completion in late 2007.

Improve the Pedestrian Environment

Goal: Create an attractive, well lit, safe environment that links office and residential areas to amenities such as restaurants, museums and arts venues.

Make downtown accessible to all. The top action items:

- Require pedestrian oriented ground level uses with high level of detail, i.e. doorways, windows, awnings and overhangs, along the sidewalk edge in downtown.
- Connect existing and emerging neighborhoods to Fayetteville Street.
- Further study converting east / west one-way streets to two-way.
- Investigate federal funding sources.
- Connect TTA Regional Rail station area with pedestrian linkages.

Regulatory Reform

Goal: Improve business environment by removing regulatory impediments; make it at least as easy to do business downtown as any place else in the region; include incentives in regulations. The top action items:

- Centralize approvals: Establish a downtown team within the city to respond to major project proposals and construction quickly. Develop a parallel strategy for small/mid-sized projects.
- Centralize the approvals process by creating a team within the city to respond to development proposals.
- Provide development incentives for vacant buildings and properties.
- Address issues dealing with outdoor dining, signage and other pedestrian encroachments.

TOWING ORDINANCE DEFEATED

The Raleigh City Council on Aug. 3 rejected a proposed ordinance that would have restricted towing in the downtown area and along a section of Hillsborough Street.

The council vote was 4-2 in favor of adopting the ordinance. However the proposal needed at least five votes for approval. Voting against were Council Members Michael Regan and Jessie Taliaferro. Voting in favor were Mayor Charles Meeker and Council Members James West, Janet Cowell and Thomas Crowder. Council Members Neal Hunt and Philip Isley were absent.

Under the proposed ordinance, offered by Mayor Meeker last month, towing from parking lots in non-residential areas would have been prohibited between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless a vehicle has been in the lot for six hours. During the prohibition hours a boot that immobilizes the vehicle could be used instead of towing. The fee to remove the boot would have been limited to \$50.

The proposal would have applied to the downtown area bounded by Peace Street to the north, West Street to the west, South Street to the south, and Person Street to the east. The towing ban also would have applied to all lots not owned by the State of North Carolina located within 200 feet of Hillsborough Street between Salisbury Street and Dixie Trail.

The ordinance would have exempted restaurants and allowed for a maximum towing fee from those lots of \$75.00. An owner or the owner's designee of any restaurant, retail or other business establishment open for business during the proscribed hours could have a vehicle towed, under the defeated proposal. The authorization to tow a vehicle would have had to be in writing by the owner or the designee.

FAYETTEVILLE STREET MALL BECOMES WI-FI HOT SPOT

Fayetteville Street Mall is now a wi-fi (wireless fidelity) hot spot for people with portable computers equipped with wireless technology cards. As a public service to draw people downtown, the City contracted Wind Channel Communications to install the system.

"It's an idea whose time has come," said Ashraf Malik of the City's Information Technology Department. "With all of the revitalization efforts going on in that area, it was another way to make the street an attraction."

Downtown Management

Goal: Take a "one-stop shopping" approach to the management and marketing of downtown. The top action items:

- Develop a comprehensive Downtown marketing program, including an expanded website. It should be developed and coordinated with all downtown resources to promote events and attractions. Maximize the capitol status.
- Create a downtown development corporation.
- Make Downtown Raleigh Alliance the organization responsible for bringing all parties to the table to oversee implementation of the vision.
- Explore development incentives and options similar to tax increment financing.



Livable Streets

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MARQUEE AND SIGN ENCROACHMENT FOR WTVD STUDIO

The Raleigh City Council approved an encroachment request from Clearscapes, Inc., architects for the new WTVD street-level studio to be located on Fayetteville Street.

The encroachment includes an illuminated sign that identifies WTVD studio and a moving LED information display sign as well as graphics on the pedestrian sidewalk. The studio will be located on the ground floor of the Hudson, the redevelopment of the Hudson-Belk building. The LED sign will be used as a scrolling display of news, weather and downtown events. The sign will not be used for commercial advertising.

The City Council approved the encroachment with the understanding that other exceptions will not be considered until a revision to the City's sign ordinance is considered. City staff had denied the encroachment because it did not conform to the current ordinance.

Date/Time		Purpose
New Convention Center Design Concept	August 10, 5:00 p.m. Raleigh Convention and Conference Center	Character concept
New Convention Center Design Concept	September 14, 5:00 p.m. Raleigh Convention and Conference Center	Evolution of Character
Raleigh City Council and Wake County Board of Commissioners	October 14, 6:00 p.m. Raleigh Convention and Conference Center	Selection of the schematic design for the new convention center.

Raleigh's New Convention Center - RTN 11 Time Warner Cable
Guests - Steve Schuster & Thomas Sayre, Clearscapes
Dudley Lacy, O'Brien/Atkins

Tuesday, August 17	10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, August 18	12:30 p.m.; 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 19	10:00 a.m.
Friday, August 20	11:00 a.m.
Saturday, August 21	6:00 p.m.

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THE FIVE IN FIVE GOALS

Complete a Fayetteville Street Renaissance to reinvigorate the Street as the heart of Raleigh, our ceremonial corridor and the premiere address for office, events and cultural activity.

2. **Fund and build a new Convention Center & Hotel** to attract conventions and trade shows and improve the business environment for hotels, restaurants and other visitor services.

3. **Improve the pedestrian environment** making downtown accessible to everyone. Balance the needs of pedestrians against those of the car. Create an attractive, well lit, safe environment that links office and residential uses to amenities such as restaurants, museums and other venues.

4. **Undertake regulatory reform** to improve the business climate by re-moving regulatory impediments, making it just as easy to do business downtown as any place in the region. Explore adding incentives in the regulations.

5. **Expand downtown management** to take a one stop approach to management and advocacy.



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Web links

City of Raleigh
www.raleigh-nc.org

Wake County
www.wakegov.com

Downtown Raleigh Alliance
www.downtownraleigh.org

Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
www.raleighchamber.org

Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau
www.visitraleigh.com